

# DAS ITE Customer Service Announcement

## Hoover & JFHQ Mainframe Teleprocessing (CICS) System Upgrade Customer Fact Sheet 3/21/2006

- **Upgrade Details**

The current ITE mainframe teleprocessing system (CICS) is Transaction Server 1.3. End of IBM support for that release is April 30, 2006. ITE will upgrade production CICS regions to IBM's latest release of CICS, Transaction Server 3.1, on April 9, 2006.

- **What we expect from customers**

Transaction Server is currently running in all CICS test regions on the Hoover machine, SY3 and SY4. Customers should verify that their applications continue to function as expected in a test environment. Any issues should be reported to System Support at 281-4650.

- **Upgrade Benefits**

- Production software will continue to have IBM support
- CICS Transaction Server 3.1 offers
  - *Containers* and *channels*, an alternative to the traditional CICS COMMAREA method of exchanging data between programs. *Containers* are not limited to 32K bytes, but instead may be almost unlimited in length.
  - Improved Web Services. CICS applications can now act in the role of both service provider and service requester.
  - Capability to issue HTTP client requests from CICS applications.
  - Support for JAVA programming

For details of these and other CICS TS 3.1 features, please see  
<http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cicsts/v3r1/index.jsp>

- **Upgrade Risks** – As with any major software upgrade, there is a potential that some features of some applications may no longer function as they did before the upgrade. There is also the possibility that 3rd party software may not interface with the new release in the same way it did with the old.
- **Risk mitigation strategy** – ITE strongly encourages its customers to thoroughly test all existing applications – including 3rd party software – in the test regions before the scheduled implementation date, and to report any unexpected test results to the System Support team.